

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena - January 2009

Location	Date/Time	Deaths & Injuries	Property & Crop Dmg	Event Type and Details
ARKANSAS, Central and North Central				
(AR-Z003) BOONE, (AR-Z004) MARION, (AR-Z005) BAXTER, (AR-Z006) FULTON, (AR-Z007) SHARP, (AR-Z012) NEWTON, (AR-Z013) SEARCY, (AR-Z014) STONE, (AR-Z015) IZARD, (AR-Z016) INDEPENDENCE, (AR-Z021) JOHNSON, (AR-Z022) POPE, (AR-Z023) VAN BUREN, (AR-Z024) CLEBURNE, (AR-Z030) LOGAN, (AR-Z031) CONWAY, (AR-Z032) FAULKNER, (AR-Z033) WHITE, (AR-Z034) WOODRUFF, (AR-Z037) SCOTT, (AR-Z038) YELL, (AR-Z039) PERRY, (AR-Z040) POLK, (AR-Z041) MONTGOMERY, (AR-Z042) GARLAND, (AR-Z043) SALINE, (AR-Z044) PULASKI, (AR-Z045) LONOKE, (AR-Z046) PRAIRIE, (AR-Z047) MONROE, (AR-Z053) CLARK, (AR-Z054) HOT SPRING, (AR-Z055) GRANT, (AR-Z056) JEFFERSON, (AR-Z057) ARKANSAS, (AR-Z062) DALLAS				
	01/05/09 06:00 CST		0	Winter Weather
	01/06/09 12:00 CST		0	

Relatively warm, moist air from the Gulf of Mexico began overrunning a cold air mass at the surface very early on the morning of the 5th. In southern Arkansas, temperatures were just warm enough for the precipitation to fall as rain. However, in central Arkansas, below-freezing temperatures caused freezing rain to break out during the early morning hours. During the first few hours that the precipitation fell, there was some sleet and even scattered thunderstorms. From later into the morning and afternoon, freezing rain and freezing drizzle spread into eastern, north central, and northeastern Arkansas. Although a few icy patches developed on bridges and overpasses during the daylight hours, the vast majority of the ice collected on trees and power lines. By late in the afternoon, some tree branches began to fall and take down some power lines, especially through the central part of the state. Additional rounds of freezing rain and freezing drizzle moved through during the night of the 5th and early on the 6th. Greatest ice accrual was from near Haskell to southwest Little Rock and from south of Lonoke to Carlisle. Driving conditions worsened during the nighttime hours, with many more accidents occurring. After daylight on the 6th, temperatures gradually warmed from south to north, changing the remaining precipitation over to rain and drizzle. By midday on the 6th, no freezing precipitation remained.


(AR-Z043) SALINE				
	01/17/09 12:25 CST		10K	Wildfire
	01/17/09 20:30 CST		0	

After some precipitation during the first week of the year, a spell of dry weather began in Arkansas. Through the middle of the month, the passage of dry cold fronts brought gusty winds and low humidities, drying vegetation considerably.

(AR-Z025) JACKSON				
	01/22/09 15:30 CST		60K	Wildfire
	01/22/09 16:40 CST		0	

The dry weather continued into the third week of January. Breezy conditions and low humidities contributed to an increasing number of wildfires, but few of these fires consumed more than 100 acres.

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A grass fire charred the landscape near Newport.

(AR-Z041) MONTGOMERY, (AR-Z042) GARLAND, (AR-Z043) SALINE, (AR-Z044) PULASKI, (AR-Z045) LONOKE, (AR-Z046) PRAIRIE, (AR-Z047) MONROE, (AR-Z052) PIKE, (AR-Z053) CLARK, (AR-Z054) HOT SPRING, (AR-Z055) GRANT, (AR-Z056) JEFFERSON, (AR-Z062) DALLAS, (AR-Z063) CLEVELAND, (AR-Z066) OUACHITA, (AR-Z067) CALHOUN				
	01/26/09 09:00 CST	0		Winter Weather
	01/28/09 07:00 CST	0		
(AR-Z003) BOONE, (AR-Z004) MARION, (AR-Z005) BAXTER, (AR-Z006) FULTON, (AR-Z007) SHARP, (AR-Z012) NEWTON, (AR-Z013) SEARCY, (AR-Z014) STONE, (AR-Z015) IZARD, (AR-Z016) INDEPENDENCE, (AR-Z021) JOHNSON, (AR-Z022) POPE, (AR-Z023) VAN BUREN, (AR-Z024) CLEBURNE, (AR-Z025) JACKSON, (AR-Z030) LOGAN, (AR-Z031) CONWAY, (AR-Z032) FAULKNER, (AR-Z033) WHITE, (AR-Z034) WOODRUFF, (AR-Z037) SCOTT, (AR-Z038) YELL, (AR-Z039) PERRY, (AR-Z040) POLK				
	01/26/09 13:00 CST	0.68B		Ice Storm
	01/28/09 08:00 CST	0		

Freezing rain and sleet moved into northern and western Arkansas during the afternoon and early evening on the 26th, then spread rapidly eastward. By later on the night of the 26th, most of the precipitation was falling in the form of freezing rain. During the day of the 27th, almost continuous freezing rain fell across the north, with ice accumulating rapidly. Over central parts of the state, temperatures warmed just enough to change most of the precipitation to rain, while rain fell in the south. Freezing rain continued in the north through the evening of the 27th, before turning over to light sleet and snow during the late night hours of the 27th and early on the 28th. Through central Arkansas and part of southern Arkansas, rain changed to freezing rain and sleet, then to a little snow. In the southeast corner of the state, most of the precipitation fell as rain.

The end result was a devastating, historic ice storm across northern Arkansas. Across the northern two rows of counties, ice

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accumulations were mainly in the 1 to 2 inch range, with a few greater totals at the highest elevations. Elsewhere in northern Arkansas, ice totals in the 1/2 to 1 inch range were more common, with 1/4 to 1/2 inch amounts in west central parts of Arkansas. The snow at the end of the winter weather episode was mainly 1/2 to 1 inch in the north, although there were some totals near 2 inches in counties close to the Missouri border. In the central part of the state, snow totals ranged from a trace to a few tenths of an inch.

The ice storm knocked out electricity to more 300,000 electric customers. More than 10,000 power poles were broken or toppled, and hundreds of miles of power lines fell to the ground. Thousands of transformers had to be replaced. Telephone service was knocked out to many areas, and some places suffered a lack of water and sewer service.



The weight of the ice was too much for these trees near Omaha. The photo is courtesy of Larry McGriff.